

Message Text

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46

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 STR-08 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 CEQ-02 EPA-04 NSF-04 NSC-10 L-03 H-03

SS-20 INT-08 AGR-20 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15 DRC-01 /241 W

----- 066829

R 231641Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1205

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 30136

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, OECD

SUBJ: MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP ON INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION,
NOV 21-22, 1973

SUMMARY AD HOC GROUP (UNDER CSTP) MET UNDER CAPABLE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR. CHARLES TAVEL (SWITZERLAND). BIRCH (SCI) AND NICHOLS (COMMERCE) REPRESENTED US. 17 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION OF 6 PAPERS PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT IN FIRST MEETING OF GROUP SINCE EXTENSIVE QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO GOVERNMENTS EARLY IN 1973 TO OBTAIN AVAILABLE INFO ON GOV'T MEASURES EMPLOYED TO STIMULATE INNOVATION IN INDUSTRY. PAPERS PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT OF GOOD QUALITY, DESIGNED BOTH TO PRESENT ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND TO CATEGORIZE BRIEFLY SUBSTANTIAL VARIETY OF SUCH MEASURES THIS FAR REPORTED BY 16 COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY

1. BASED ON REPLIES BY US AGENCIES 47 DIRECT AND INDIRECT MEASURES IDENTIFIED IN US (DAS/SPR/73.74). FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS: (1) UNDER REPEATED CAUTIONING BY CHAIRMAN, TO AVOID EXCESSIVE DETAIL AT THIS STAGE AND TO SEEK PRACTICAL DESIGN FOR OECD STUDY AND EVALUATION, CONSENSUS
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CLEARLY EMERGED AS TO COMPLEXITY OF TASK AND NEED TO PRODUCE

USEFUL RESULTS FOR GOVTS.

(2) CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE OVER DESIRABILITY CARRYING OUT STUDY ON SELECTIVE BASIS VS. COMPREHENSIVE STUDY. ALL MEASURES THAT CONCEIVABLY HAVE EFFECT ON INNOVATION PROCESS. THIS SERVED TO DEEPEN GROUP UNDERSTANDING OF COMPLEXITY OF SUBJECT.

(3) US STRESSED NEED FOR COMPLETING INFO STAGE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AS ESSENTIAL BASIS FOR PROCEEDING; THIS ACCEPTED BY SECRETARIAT AND OTHER DELS.

(4) CONSENSUS GRADUALLY EMERGED THAT VERY GOOD BEGINNING HAD BEEN MADE AND SECRETARIAT WILL UNDERTAKE COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY MONOGRAPHS PLUS TYPOLOGY OF MEASURES FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION BY AD HOC GROUP AT MEETING ON MARCH 21, 1974 FOLLOWING MARCH MEETING OF CSTP.

(5) EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION ON EVENTUAL EVALUATION AND COMPARISON OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY MEASURES REVEALED REPLIES RECEIVED THUS FAR ARE LIMITED. ALL DELS STRESSED THIS MOST DIFFICULT ASPECT OF STUDY AND EXPRESSED VARIETY OF VIEWS AS TO FUTURE PROCEDURE. US SUGGESTED SELECTION LIMITED NUMBER OF KEY MEASURES THAT COULD BE SUBJECT OF PAIRED COMPARISON. ON BASIS THIS AND OTHER SUGGESTIONS SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE CHOICE OF METHODS FOR MARCH 1974 MEETING.

(6) DISCUSSION OF MNC'S AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY (DAS/SPR/73.64) CENTERED AROUND RELEVANCE OF CONTRIBUTION MNC'S MAKE TO INNOVATION PROCESS. EXCHANGE USEFUL BUT NOT CONCLUSIVE BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES AS TO STATUS OF PLANNING BY CENTRAL GROUP ON BROAD MNC STUDY AND FACT THAT NEW AD HOC GROUP ESTABLISHED BY CSTP AT MEETING JUST CONCLUDED HAS NOT YET COMMENCED TO CONSIDER NATURE OF CSTP CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL STUDY.

7. NEVERTHELESS AD HOC GROUP ON INNOVATION FELT IT COULD FORMULATE AREAS AND TOPICS FOR STUDY ON UNDERSTANDING THAT TOPICS WOULD REMAIN IN TECHNOLOGY FRAMEWORK. SEVERAL WERE SUGGESTED IN PRELIMINARY WAY SUCH AS POSSIBLE AREAS OF CONFLICT BETWEEN OBJECTIVES OF GOVTS AND MNC'S, TYPES OF RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN
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BY MNC'S IN HOST COUNTRIES, IMPACT ON POTENTIAL FOR INNOVATION IN HOST COUNTRIES. GROUP CONCLUDED WOULD BE USEFUL FOR MEMBER GOVTS POSE SUITABLE QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND SEND THEM TO SECRETARIAT BY JAN. 15, 1974 FOR CONSOLIDATION AND CONSIDERATION BY AD HOC GROUP AT ITS MARCH 1974 MEETING. SECRETARIAT PREPARING RECORD OF THIS CONSENSUS AS WELL AS OTHER DOCUMENTATION REQUESTED BY AD HOC GROUP. BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OECDP30136
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731116/aaaaalte.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SCI
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Jan-2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP ON INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION, NOV 21-22, 1973
TAGS: TECH, OECD, CSTP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005